

The occurrence of *Oedemera* species in Surrey (Col.: Oedemeridae)

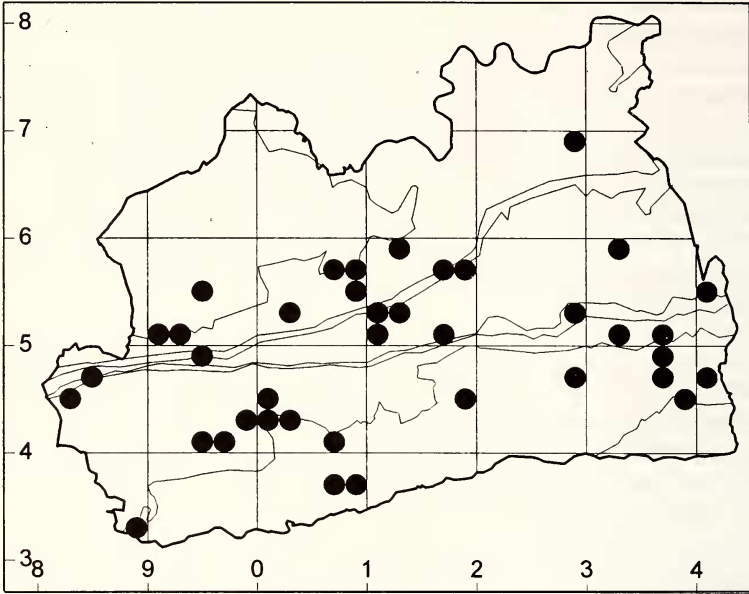
I noted with interest Laurence Clemon's article (*Ent. Rec.* **111**: 141-143) on the occurrence of *Oedemera* species in Kent. This prompted me to look at the records I hold for Surrey. These records, which were collected on an *ad hoc* basis in the course of recording hoverflies from 1985 to 1999, may not be fully representative; however, they are probably sufficient to give a fair idea of overall distribution of both *O. nobilis* (44 records) and *O. lurida* (69 records). Both species occur throughout the summer months from early May through to August (see Table 1). The data for *O. nobilis* suggest that this species may have two broods a year, whilst the picture for *O. lurida* is less clear, but it is possibly multiple brooded.

In Surrey, *O. nobilis* occurs widely across the Chalk, Lower Greensand and the London and Wealden clays (see Map 1), but would appear to be poorly represented on the Bagshot Sand and within the London suburbs. Overall distribution does not correlate with the distribution of commoner thermophilic species or those associated with dry habitats; rather, it seems to coincide more with grassland habitats with no obvious affinities to either hard rock or drift geology. Habitat notes include woodland rides and open grasslands. Adults are regular flower visitors and I have noted visits to dog rose *Rosa canina*, upright hedge parsley *Torilis japonica*, perennial sow-thistle *Sonchus arvensis* and ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.

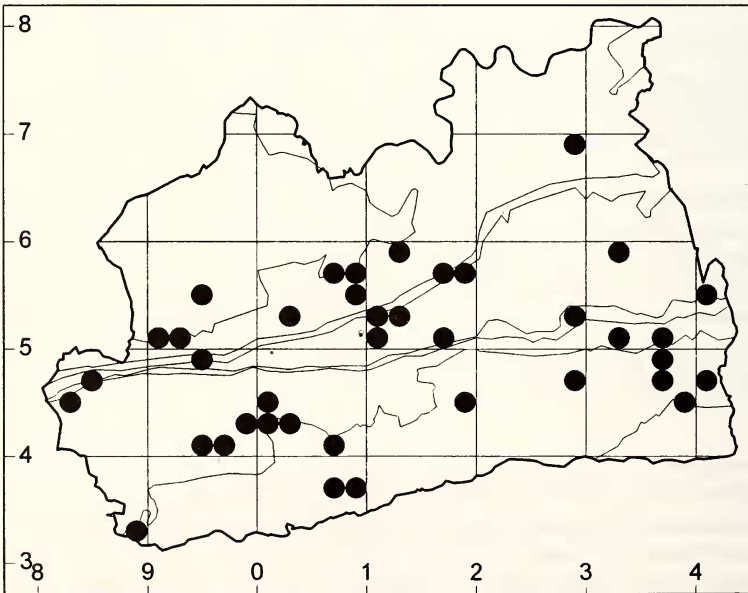
<i>Oedemera lurida</i>																				
	May				June					July				August					Sept.	
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2
Recs.	–	1	7	4	5	5	4	2	5	1	7	3	5	4	7	3	–	4	2	–
<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>																				
	May				June					July				August					Sept.	
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2
Recs.	1	1	1	4	–	9	4	3	5	–	–	4	3	4	2	1	1	1	–	–

Table 1. Weekly records of *Oedemera* spp. in Surrey. Week 1 starts on 1 May and the week numbers follow sequentially.

It is apparent that *O. lurida* is much the commoner species (Map 2), which seemingly occurs more extensively into the London suburbs and north Surrey. Records suggest that it may be more frequently associated with ruderal habitats such as waste ground and roadside verges. The only note I have for flower visits is to ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.— ROGER K.A. MORRIS, c/o 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.



Map 1. Distribution of *Oedemera nobilis* in Surrey.



Map 2. Distribution of *Oedemera lurida* in Surrey.